

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT

# Prusi Press Release

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## **HEALTHY FOREST BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

*Prusi bill encourages sustainability of Michigan's forests and works to strengthen logging industry*

**LANSING** – Legislation introduced by State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming), promoting the sustainability of Michigan's forest lands and encouraging the strength of Michigan's logging industry, was recently signed into law by the Governor as Public Act 123 of 2004.

"I am pleased that Governor Granholm recognizes the importance of maintaining the health and sustainability of Michigan's forests and the businesses they support," Sen. Prusi said. "Michigan families also benefit from strong, sustainable forests for recreation and job opportunities."

Senate Bill 1023 establishes four pilot project areas no later than December 31, 2006. The pilot areas will include between 200 and 640 acres with two in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. One area will be hardwoods and one will be softwoods. The intent of these project areas will be to demonstrate cost saving techniques and improved efficiency in forest treatment techniques while improving the overall health of the forest. State Representative Rich Brown (D-Bessemer) played a crucial role in shepherding the bill through the House.

"Michigan's timber and forest product industry provides good paying jobs for many Michigan workers and is important to the economy of our state, especially in the Upper Peninsula," Governor Granholm said. "Senator Prusi's leadership on this issue on behalf of the Upper Peninsula was instrumental to this bill's success, and I look forward to working with him on other initiatives that help our forestry industry grow and thrive."

Michigan's forestry industry employs 150,000 to 200,000 individuals statewide, including loggers, truckers, and mill workers.

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*Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.*